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George Washington

Statement of Richard Parkinson

(Lincolnshire Farmer)



George Washington

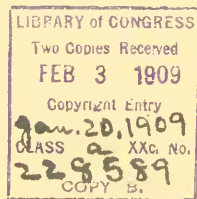
Statement of Richard Parkinson

[*Lincolnshire Farmer*]

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~~Washingtonian~~

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PREFACE

Ac prius ignotum ferro quam scindimus aequor,
Ventos et varium coeli praediscere morem
Cura sit, ac patrios cultusque habitusque locorum;
Et quid quaeque ferat regio, et quid quaeque recuset.

VIRGIL: *Georgics*, I, v. 50.

THE BOOK OF THE FARM, that wonderful treatise published about 1842 by Henry Stephens, must have caused many people, whether or not engaged in farming, to reflect that the business of agriculture is rightly a very special work, scarcely possible in advance of a solidarity in the state, and that if anything, good land is a worse asset than poor land in that case. In Richard Parkinson's two volumes,* extracts from which are given here, it is evident throughout how uncomfortable the highly trained man must be in a new country if he

* A Tour in America in 1798, 1799 and 1800. Exhibiting Sketches of Society and Manners and a Particular Account of the American System of Agriculture, with its Recent Improvements. By Richard Parkinson (Late of Orange Hill, near Baltimore). London, 1805. 2 vols. Vol. I, pp. 1-5; 37-63; 78-79; 160. Vol. II, pp. 425-441; 611-612.

is without the scientific imagination, if, for example, he cannot see that forty acres of land lately forest present opportunities different from forty acres in Cheshire or in Kent. Parkinson had capital which he might have used in many ways to good advantage, and yet he could not get out of his head that it must be applied in some strictly regularized way. The idea of America, except among the philosophers, was slow in finding lodgment; meanwhile, the most useful immigrant was the man with little or no capital, who was compelled to adapt himself.

After the Revolution travellers from Europe came in numbers to inspect the new world. Not until 1794, with Dr. Thomas Cooper of Manchester, was there much attempt at appraisal (on the plan of Dr. Franklin's Questions and Answers), with the specific purpose of encouraging immigration from Europe. Richard Parkinson, the forerunner of Birkbeck and Cobbett, was doubtless inspired of Dr. Cooper, although he is scornful of that learned man's judgment in the item of lands. Parkinson was almost the first among foreigners to register a general dislike of this country. Nothing pleased him in the polity, and he wrote his book to warn immi-

grants off. However, he met with much kindness in America, and is not chary in admiration of individuals. He knew his business thoroughly, had an eye for character, and there are to be found few more direct pieces of writing than his book of complaints. His impressions of George Washington are perhaps all the more interesting from the fact of his disappointment in the capabilities of the River Farm as it appeared to the specialist from the land of specialties. What astounded Parkinson was Washington's exact justice and scrupulous habits of business, and the conclusion is no doubt the just one, if conspicuous character is ever to be explained, that it was those qualities which enabled Washington to accomplish his work.

Time has proved Richard Parkinson wrong in his estimate of the lands he saw, and has confirmed the opinion of the owner of the River Farm—that nothing was at fault except the methods employed. Plenty had induced carelessness. Each recurrent season of clear skies and genial airs, long continued, had made winter be regarded as of small account, and great preparations for winter needless. An ordered rotation of crops could be dispensed with: indeed such methods would

have retarded the settlement of the country. Conditions have become complex and the land has responded.

In the few notes appended will be found items relative to the factors of the matter at that time.

ALFRED J. MORRISON.

Wash., D.C.

STATEMENT OF RICHARD PARKINSON

I.

It may be proper to explain what was the cause of my going to America.

During the interval my EXPERIENCED FARMER was printing, I had much time to spend in London; and having the honor of being acquainted with Sir John Sinclair, who was then President of the Board of Agriculture, I frequently had occasion to consult that gentleman. General Washington had at that time sent over to Sir John proposals for letting his Mount Vernon estate to English or Scotch farmers.¹ This being made known to me, I thought myself almost possessed of a real treasure, in having the honour to be introduced to so great a man as General Washington (himself a great enthusiast for farming), and to the rich soils of America. With all these encouragements, therefore, having got the books printed, and upwards of five hundred subscribers to the work (of the most respectable gentlemen in England), as a recommendation to the

gentlemen in America, I speculated to make a rapid fortune. As General Washington had sent over a plan of Mount Vernon, divided into distinct farms, I pitched on one of twelve hundred acres of land; the rent twenty-two shillings per acre, or so much in produce delivered to him at a market price; ² to have a power of viewing the farm before accepting it. This, with the view of printing my *EXPERIENCED FARMER* in America, and of taking over race-horses, cattle, and hogs, in the ship, altogether seemed a most favourable prospect.

With these expectations I went to Liverpool; and employed brokers to charter a ship, which cost me eight hundred and fifty pounds. I then bought the famous race-horses Phenomenon and Cardinal Puff, two blood stallions; ten blood mares, and four more blood stallions; a bull and a cow of the Roolright kind, a bull and a cow of the North Devon, a bull and a cow of the no-horned Yorkshire kind, a cow (with two calves, and in calf again) of the Holderness kind; and five boar and seven sow pigs, of four different kinds. These things being all put on board, I followed them, with my family—which consisted of seven, besides two servants to take care of the horses, cattle, &c.

The first disagreeable thing which occurred was, the captain found his ship improperly loaded; she wanted ballast: we were, therefore, stopped fourteen days to get ballast,—a delay which injured our horses very much, besides wasting our water and other provisions. One man now became sick, and we sent him back. No sooner had we got to sea, than one of the king's boats boarded us, and pressed our other servant: then I had sixteen horses, nine cattle, and thirteen pigs, to feed and pump water for, to clean the dirt from, &c.; with the assistance of one son, only twelve years of age: my other son and the rest of the family were all sick. We were twelve weeks in our passage, and in that time lost eleven horses, in which number was Phenomenon; the cattle and eleven hogs arrived safe.

The speculation of the books answered very well; as also did the horses, cattle, and hogs, beyond my expectation: had it not been for the great loss in my horses in going over, the whole of my venture would have proved very profitable. But the wonderful disappointment I met with in the barrenness of the land was beyond any description. Would General Washington have given me the twelve hundred acres, I would not

have accepted it, to have been confined to live in that country; and to convince the General of the cause of my determination, I was compelled to treat him with a great deal of frankness.

* * *

II.

I sailed from Liverpool, September 3d, 1798; and after a very long and bad passage, arrived at Norfolk in Virginia, on the 11th of November. During my stay of four days in this town, I met with many English gentlemen; and was very pleasantly treated,—particularly by Mr. Cox, a gentleman from Derbyshire. When I was first introduced here, the conversation, as the company were seated at dinner, was on politics; and the Englishmen were all for England, and great supporters of the crown and its dignity. Mr. Cox being in the chair, the King of England was the first health, and Mr. Pitt next.

After dinner was over, I began to inquire for some hay for my horses and cattle; but was told there was no

such thing. I was astonished to find in so large a town, where a great number of horses, mules, and cows, were kept, no hay, and in the month of November, too. The people seemed as much surprised at my asking for hay as I was at there being none: and well they might; for when I walked out into the ground, I saw no such thing as grass growing, nor any sort of green herb. This to me, as an Englishman, was a very unusual spectacle; to see land without something upon it: and not a little mortifying, to one who had been tempted to believe it to be (as they term it) the best land in the world. I knew that if all their land was like that, a man could not live in plenty and splendor from the produce of such crops as it would bring.

It was natural for me now to inquire, what they kept their cows and horses on during the winter. They told me—their horses on blades, and their cows on slops. I neither knew what *blades* nor *slops* were. The people seemed to laugh at me for my inquiry; as by this time they had learnt that I was the English farmer who had come over with a quantity of horses, bulls, cows, hogs, and dogs, and taken a farm of General Washington at Mount-Vernon. I have reason to say, indeed,

I was not a fit man to farm in their country; which I heard said repeatedly, both at that time and afterwards during my stay in America. This I knew to be true: nor is any Englishman:—it does not suit very well to take anything from rich land to poor.

Now to return to the slops and blades.—The latter proved to be the blades and tops of Indian corn: and the slops were the same that are put into the swill-tub in England, and given to hogs.

When I got these blades, my horses were frightened at them; for they rattle much, having the same appearance as our dry flag-leaves in England. From their delightful smell, however, the horses began to eat them; and very good they are: but I had only forty pounds for thirteen horses, bulls, and cows; and this was all I could procure in the town of Norfolk, where there appeared to be a great deal of shipping and trade. I, therefore, rose early in the morning, and walked out along the road which I was told was the most likely for meeting the carts coming with them to market. I found several people on the road with the same intent. With one of these persons I formed an agreement to buy a cart-load betwixt us: and I stood marketman, and bought that

quantity, which consisted of four hundred bundles, or four hundred pounds (to be either weighed or counted, which I pleased). My promised partner in this business, however, deceived me, and did not accept his share; therefore, the whole cart-load became mine. Being told by the captain that we should sail the next morning, and he expected to be at Mount-Vernon in eleven hours, the quantity was more than I wished for. But it proved lucky: as we did not sail until the Tuesday, which was an interval of four days instead of two.

III.

The cause of our putting into Norfolk was, that when we were about thirty miles south-west of Norfolk, lying at anchor, a gale of wind came on and did the vessel some damage, which we were obliged to put in to repair. On Tuesday morning we set sail: and in *nine days* reached Mount-Vernon, instead of *eleven hours*; having head-winds or calms all the passage.

About thirty miles down the river Potomac, a gentleman, of the name of Grimes, came up to us in his own

boat. He came aboard, and behaved very politely to me: and it being near dinner-time, he would have me go ashore and dine with him; which I did. He gave me some grape-juice to drink, which he called Port wine, and entertained me with saying he made it himself: it was not to my taste equal to our Port in England, nor even strong beer; but a hearty welcome makes everything pleasant, and this he most cheerfully gave me.

In two days after we left this place, we came in sight of Mount-Vernon; but in all the way up the river, I did not see any green fields. The country had to me a most barren appearance. There were none but snake-fences; which are rails laid with the ends of one upon another, from eight to sixteen in number in one length. The surface of the earth looked like a yellow-washed wall; for it had been a very dry summer; and there was not anything that I could see green; except the pine trees in the woods, and the cedars, which made a truly picturesque view as we sailed up the Potomac. It is indeed a most beautiful river.

When we arrived at Mount-Vernon, I found that General Washington was at Philadelphia; but his steward had orders from the General to receive me and my

family, with all the horses, cattle, &c. which I had on board. A boat was therefore got ready for landing them; but that could not be done, as the ship must be cleared out at some port before anything was moved: so, after looking about a few minutes at Mount-Vernon, I returned to the ship, and we began to make way for Alexandria. We were two days in going this small distance, which is only nine miles.

The next day we landed at Alexandria. General Washington's steward had recommended me to the inn kept by Mr. Gadsby, an Englishman.³ Here the stables were floored with boards; for in many parts of America, as there is not straw enough produced to litter the horses with, this is the practice. We put our horses, cattle, pigs, &c. into these *rooms*. The charges were very high; and in about twenty-one days our bill amounted to seventy pounds currency: we had moved our horses and cattle some days before, or it would have been much more. I had repeatedly invitations to buy lands, or take farms; but my reply was, that I wanted only forty acres, or between that quantity and a hundred. At this the people were amazed; for having heard that I had agreed with General Washington for twelve hundred acres, and

now did not like it, they thought I was mad. Great numbers of them came to see my live stock. They wanted to give me land for them: but I was not so fond of the land as they expected; I did not think any I had seen worth having; for by this time I had learnt the price of labour, and likewise what was the produce.

When I had been about seven days at Alexandria, I hired a horse and went to Mount-Vernon, to view my intended farm; of which General Washington had given me a plan, and a report along with it—the rent being fixed at eighteen hundred bushels of wheat for twelve hundred acres, or money according to the price of that grain * * * I viewed the whole of the cultivated estate—about three thousand acres; and afterward dined with Mrs. Washington and the family. Here I met a Doctor Thornton, who is a very pleasant agreeable man, and his lady; with a Mr. Peters and his lady, who was a grand-daughter of Mrs. Washington. Doctor Thornton living at the city of Washington, he gave me an invitation to visit him there: he was one of the commissioners of the city. I slept at Mount-Vernon, and experienced a very kind and comfortable reception; but did not like the land at all.

* * *

Having got my horses, cattle, hogs, &c. fixed, and my wife and family in lodgings, I began to look out for some place to settle in; and clearly seeing that farming would not do on any of the soils I had seen, and Colonel Lyles [of Maryland] being a friendly, creditable, well-informed man, and a man of property, I advised with him on every occasion. We had an invitation to dine with Doctor Thornton: and the Doctor having a public dinner on that day, I got introduced to many respectable characters; and among the rest to Mr. Law, a gentleman married to the grand-daughter of Mrs. Washington. Mr. Law is an Englishman, and brother to Lord Ellenborough. He gave Colonel Lyles and myself an invitation to go to sleep at his house; but we were prevented by General Washington coming to sleep there that night, and Colonel Lear, his secretary. I had, however, the gratification to be introduced to the General; and Colonel Lyles being a neighbour and a particular acquaintance of his, a most pleasing evening I spent. The General was quite sociable, and received me very kindly. After supper, at nine o'clock, the General went to bed as that was his hour; for the supper in most houses being tea, and some broiled fish, sausages, steaks, &c. it is gen-

erally introduced between six and seven o'clock, which was done that evening. Doctor Thornton, Colonel Lyles, Mrs. Law, and myself, sat some hours after; and the Colonel and I went to sleep at a tavern in the city, which was kept by an Englishman named Tunnercliffe. We were asked the next morning to breakfast at Mr. Law's, with the General; which we did: and the General gave me a most kind invitation to go to see him in a few days. After breakfast, he set off in his carriage to Mount-Vernon.

Mr. Law having speculated largely in city lots (viz. of the intended new federal city, as it was called, of *Washington*), he offered to let Colonel Lyles and me have any lot we should choose, at the price it cost him, and to leave the money on common interest for any time we should mention. We looked out a lot and made a conditional bargain. I was to make an estimate and plan; which I did. But the expenses of building I found very high; nor did I like the appearance of the place at all. I began to think that it was too young a city for a brewery, there not being above three hundred houses; nor could I find that there was another man of any considerable moneyed property in the city, besides

Mr. Law. I thought too that, water being the usual drink of the country, there was very little probability of that custom changing for some time; and especially while they were employed in building houses, paving streets, &c. I therefore made known these sentiments to Colonel Lyles; and we dropped that scheme. Indeed, I began to think of coming to England again.

After we had parted with the General, and viewed the lot, we returned to the tavern: where we found a gentleman from Washington county [Maryland], General Sprigg, who was in search of me to buy some of the cattle, or all of them, and the hogs; which he said were the best he had ever seen come from England, though he had some himself, and had seen a great many. He offered me a very good price for some of them.

I spent the day with General Sprigg at George Town, which joins to the city; and supped with him, in a tavern, on their famous canvas-back ducks, the flesh of which is in my opinion superior to the woodcock in England. These ducks are to be found only in two rivers in America, the Potomac and the Susquehannah, which seems a very odd circumstance; and in these rivers there are thousands of them. I returned, next morning,

to Alexandria; and in a day or two afterward went to see General Washington. I spent a very pleasant day in the house, as the weather was so severe that there were no farming objects to see, the ground being covered with snow. The General wished me to stay all night; but having some other engagements, I declined his kind offer. He sent Colonel Lear out after I had parted with him, to ask me if I wanted any money; which I gladly accepted.

* * *

From the many civilities I had received in the town of Baltimore, I began to have a respect for it; and General Washington having in a most friendly manner given me his opinion of the whole country, so that I might know how to situate myself, he had told me Baltimore was and would be the risingest town in America, except the federal city. But there being many things previously necessary, to make the produce get conveyed to the federal city, that now in greatest part goes to Baltimore—such as navigable cuts, turnpike-roads, &c.—I had made up my mind to settle near Baltimore; thinking that as I *was* in America, and had got

a large subscription to my intended treatise, a farm would employ my family, and improve my own ideas—I knew that *situation* was a great point in any place; and especially where labour is so high, and indeed, in some measure, scarcely to be obtained. The General told me, Philadelphia would decline; but New-York would always maintain an eminent commercial rank, from its position—the frost not stopping the navigation so early, and sometimes not at all * *

On reaching Baltimore, I engaged for the farm at Orange Hill, for three hundred pounds per year currency. This farm was three miles from Baltimore. There were only two hundred acres of cleared land; the remainder for fire and fences. I do not think that in any part of England, such poor land would let for half the sum; indeed I do not suppose it would let at all: but I know no such land here; for our land generally grows something. I then went to Mount Vernon, and told General Washington what I had seen; sold my cattle, horses, hogs, &c. (General Sprigg becoming a great purchaser of cattle and hogs which he values much;) and brought my family to Orange Hill,—where I began my farming.

IV.

Although the reader may think my calculations low on American produce, he may see, in the letters published by Arthur Young, Esq. and Sir J. Sinclair, that General Washington's calculation on the average of the crops in Virginia is no more than eight bushels per acre: ⁴ and it is not to be supposed that General Washington would state them at the lowest; as he frequently sent proposals to England, to let his farms to English or Scotch farmers: his own opinion on the American soils was, that the small produce was in consequence of a want of cultivation ⁵ * *

I surprised the General very much: and Colonel Lear was present, who had been in England; and he mentioned his having been with Mr. Young, who, he said, called him a fool for being in trade with so much land. The Colonel replied, that if he had his land to till, it would make a fool of him. I told the General my father's wool on his farm, part of it poor land, averaged nine pounds a fleece of eleven hundred sheep upon five hundred acres of land—and some part of it two shillings and six-pence per acre; and his would not average more

than three pounds a fleece,^s on three thousand acres with one hundred sheep. I have heard say, that Colonel Lear remarked, that he never knew any man speak with so much candour to the General as I did * *

I think a large number of negroes to require as severe discipline as a company of soldiers: and that may be one and the great cause why General Washington managed his negroes better than any other man, he being brought up to the army, and by nature industrious beyond any description, and in regularity the same. There are several anecdotes related of him for being methodical. I was told by General Stone [of Maryland] that he was travelling with his family in his carriage across the country, and arriving at a ferry belonging to General Washington, he offered the ferryman a moidore. The man said, "I cannot take it." The General asked, "Why John?" He replied, "I am only a servant to General Washington; and I have no weights to weigh it with: and the General will weigh it; and if it should not be weight, he will not only make me the loser, but he will be angry with me"—"Well, John, you must take it; and I will lose three pence in its value:" the ferryman did so; and he carried it to General Washington

on the Saturday night following. The General weighed it; and it was not weight: it wanted three half-pence: General Washington carefully lapped up the three half-pence in a piece of paper, and directed it to General Stone, which he received from the ferryman, on his return. General Stone told me another of his regularities, that, during the time he was engaged in the army in the America war, and from home, he had a plasterer from Baltimore, to plaster a room for him; and the room was measured, and the plasterer's demand paid by the steward. When the General returned home, he measured the room, and found the work to come to less by fifteen shillings than the man had received. Some time after the plasterer died; and the widow married another man, who advertised in the newspapers to receive all and pay all due to or by her former husband. The General, seeing the paper, made a demand of the fifteen shillings, and received them * * It was always his custom, when he travelled, to pay as much for his servant's breakfast, dinner, or supper, as for his own. I was told this by the keeper of a tavern, where the General breakfasted; and he made the bill three shillings and nine pence for the master's breakfast, and three shillings the servant's.

The General sent for the tavern-keeper into the room, and desired he would make the same charge for his servants as for himself, for he doubted not that they had eaten as much. This shews he was as correct in paying as in receiving.

I one day heard General Ridgely [of Maryland] speaking at his table to an officer on the subject of his going to review the soldiers [militia]; he said that they sat down during the time that he was reviewing them: the officer told him it was impossible to make them do otherwise; but I think to the contrary. They did not act so before General Washington; but by nature he was a great monarch, and (as it is termed in general conversation) infringed more on the liberties of the subject than any other man ever did, as is well known from several instances in his life. A foot-path would not be broken if all men of power were like him. I have been told by more than one of his stewards, that if any man were ever seen on his extensive plantations, out of the path or road, he would send some person to ask his business, and order him off, if he could not give a satisfactory reason for his being there. And since he could preserve such an authority in that rude un-

settled country, as to the regulations respecting the taking of fruit in what they term a friendly manner, without any leave or permission, it shewed him to have superior power to the rest of mankind. His laws were peremptory in all his family concerns; and doubtless that was the most proper method for the comfort and happiness of his people.

It may be worthy the reader's notice to observe what regularity does; since there cannot be any other particular reason given for General Washington's superior powers, than his correctness, that made him able to govern that wild country: for it was the opinion of many of his most intimate friends, that his intellects were not brighter than those of many other men. To me he appeared a mild friendly man, in company rather reserved, in private speaking with candour. His behaviour to me was such that I shall ever revere his name.

General Washington lived a great man, and died the same. He rode into his plantation in the fore part of the day, came home, and died about eleven o'clock at night [of the next day]. I am of the opinion that the General never knowingly did anything wrong, but did to all men as he would they should do to him.

NOTES

“*Laudato ingentia rura;
Exiguum colito.*”

(1) Cf. Washington to Sir John Sinclair, Bart., 20th Feby, 1796 (Philadelphia):—“I have taken the liberty to enclose you the copy of a notification which I have published in some of the gazettes of the United States; that in case any farmers answering the descriptions therein contained are about to transplant themselves, to whom you might be inclined to give the information, that you may have it in your power to do so.” p. 35, Part 2, *Letters on Agriculture from His Excellency George Washington, President of the United States, to Arthur Young, Esq., F. R. S. and Sir John Sinclair, Bart., M. P. With Statistical Tables and Remarks by Thomas Jefferson, Richard Peters & Other Gentlemen, on the Economy & Management of Farms in the United States.* Edited by Franklin Knight. Washington, 1847. [There was an edition of the Letters to Arthur Young published at Alexandria in 1803.]

(2) Cf. [A] *Letters on Agriculture &c.*, Part 2, p. 36 (Washington to Sir John Sinclair, Feb. 20, 1796): —“As wheat is the staple produce of that part of the country in which this estate lyes, I shall fix the rent therein, at a bushel and half for every acre of arable land contained within the lease;—to be discharged in case of failure of that crop, at the price the article bears in the market. Two or three years ago I sent Mr. Young a sketch of these farms, with all the fields, meads & lots, with their relative situations, laid down from actual surveys.”

[B] *Part* 1, p. 118; Washington to Arthur Young, Dec. 12, 1793, (Philadelphia):—“I would let these four farms to four substantial farmers, of wealth and strength sufficient to cultivate them, and who would ensure to me the regular payment of the rents, and I would give them leases for seven or ten years, at the rate of a Spanish milled dollar, or other money current at the time, in this country, equivalent thereto, for every acre of ploughable or mowable ground, within the inclosures of the respective farms, as marked in the plan; and would allow the tenants, during that period, to take fuel, and use timber from the woodland, to repair the

buildings, and to keep the fences in order until live fences could be substituted in place of dead ones; but, in this case, no sub-tenants would be allowed * *

River Farm, which is the largest of the four, and separated from the others by Little Hunting Creek, contains twelve hundred and seven acres of ploughable land."

It is difficult to know what Parkinson means by "the rent twenty two shillings per acre," even reckoning the shilling at currency. Parkinson says (Vol. II, p. 380), "A beaver hat costs eight dollars, or three pounds currency." Later, he gives the rent as stated in the letter to Sir John Sinclair, viz., one and a half bushels of wheat per acre. Vol. II, p. 455, Parkinson speaks of wheat selling at that time at eleven shillings. Wheat was high then. In 1795 Thomas Jefferson sold his wheat crop at \$2.50 a bushel (La Rochefoucauld: *Travels in the United States*, London, 1799, Vol. II, p. 76). But the price was not kept at that level. The next year flour for export fell off sharply in price—"the recent fall in the price of flour has lessened the value of horses as well as of all other commodities" (La Rochefoucauld, II, 100, §§, Valley of Virginia). Prices fluc-

tuated so at that time that it is possible a bushel and a half of wheat was worth, in 1798, 1799, or 1800, as much as twenty-two shillings currency.

(3) Cf. John Davis: *Travels of Four Years and a Half in the United States of America during 1798, 1799, 1800, 1801, and 1802.* London, 1803, p. 223. —“It is observable that *Gadesby* keeps the best house of entertainment in the United States.”

(4) Cf. [A] Washington to Arthur Young (*Letters on Agriculture &c.*, p. 51), Hyde-Park, Fairfax County, Virginia, Nov. 18, 1791:—“The average yield of wheat [Fairfax county], in the mode of agriculture which I have already mentioned was practised with us, is about six for one; in fallowed grounds, about eight and ten for one. The old tobacco grounds which have been well manured, will yield from twenty to thirty * * * * The chief grass cultivated here is the timothy; the average product of it, per acre, is about a ton. It is certainly the best adapted to our hot suns, and particularly our slovenly management of any grass.”

[B] Arthur Young to Washington, Jan. 15, 1793:—“How can Mr. Jefferson produce annually five thousand bushels of wheat worth 75ol., by means of a cattle

product of only 125l.? I do not want to come to America to know that this is simply impossible: at the commencement of a term it may do, but how long will it last? This is the management that gives such products, as eight and ten bushels an acre. Arable land can yield wheat only by means of cattle and sheep; it is not dung that is wanted so much as a change of products: repose under grasses is the soul of management; and all cleaning and tillage to be given in the year that yields green winter food * * * It is only by increasing cattle that you can increase wheat permanently." (*Letters on Agriculture, &c.*, p. 98.)

[C] Thomas Jefferson to Washington, June 28, 1793:—"Mr. Young must not pronounce too hastily on the impossibility of an annual production of 750l. worth of wheat, coupled with a cattle product of 125l. My object was to state the produce of a good farm, under good husbandry, as practised in my part of the country. Manure does not enter into this, because we can buy an acre of new land cheaper than we can manure an old one. Good husbandry with us, consists in abandoning Indian corn and tobacco: tending small grain, some red clover, fallowing, and endeavouring to

have, while the lands are at rest, a spontaneous growth of white clover. I do not present this as a culture judicious in itself, but as good, in comparison with what most people there pursue. Mr. Young has never had an opportunity of seeing how slowly the fertility of the original soil is exhausted, with moderate management of it." (*Letters on Agriculture*, &c., p. 103.)

How mistaken, at that time, any analysis of American lands was, from the investor's standpoint merely, appears in Arthur Young's statement of the case for a farm of 200 acres in Bucks county, Pennsylvania. The year's operations, by a strict debit and credit, show a loss of \$7. Yet it is very probable that the owner of the farm began with nothing, and that at the time of his death each of his grown children would be as well off as he was at the date of the analyzed inventory. (*Letters on Agriculture*, &c., p. 100.)

(5) Cf. La Rochefoucauld, *Travels in the United States*, Vol. II, p. 289:—"Colonel Tilghman [of Maryland] has a property of three thousand acres of land contiguous, of which he uses about one thousand for growing corn and maize [i. e. wheat and corn], and for meadow ground. He appears to know all the

faults of the agriculture of his country, and to be convinced of the advantage resulting from a change, but he sees so many difficulties attending it, that the amendments he makes are only partial and few, though well informed, by the reading of good English books, of all that is necessary to be done in order to establish a good and rich tillage."

Cf. also, *American Husbandry*. By An American, London, 1775, p. 144:—"There is no error in husbandry of more consequence than not being sufficiently solicitous about manure; it is this error that makes the planters in New Jersey, and all our other colonies, seem to have but one object, which is plowing up fresh land. The case is, they exhaust the old as fast as possible till it will bear nothing more, and then not having manure to replenish it, nothing remains but taking new land to serve in the same manner."

(6) Cf. Henry Wansey, *Journal of an Excursion to the United States of North America in the Summer of 1794* [June 6]. Salisbury, 1796, p. 124:—"The General asked me what I thought of their wool? I informed him, that I had seen some very good and fine, at *Hartford*, in Connecticut, which they told me came

from *Georgia*; but that in general it was very indifferent: yet from the appearance of it, I was convinced it was capable of great improvement * * * * His Excellency observed, that from his own experience, he believed it capable of great improvement, for he had been trying some experiments with his own flocks (at Mount Vernon); that by attending to breed and pasturage, he had so far improved his fleeces; as to have encreased them from two to six pounds a-piece; but that since, from a multiplicity of other objects to attend to, they were, by being neglected, gone back to half their weight, being now scarcely three pounds. I took this opportunity to offer him one of my publications on the Encouragement of Wool, which he seemed with pleasure to receive."

Cf. also, *Letters on Agriculture, &c.*, p. 25 (1788), and Part 2, p. 25 (1794).

ADDENDUM.

RICHARD PARKINSON [1748-1815] was born in Lincolnshire, and spent most of his life there. Besides

the *Experienced Farmer* (2 vols.) and the *Tour in America*, Parkinson published several books,—*The English Practice of Agriculture, Exemplified in the Management of a Farm in Ireland*, 1806; *Practical Observations on Gypsum, or Plaister of Paris as a Manure*, 1808; *Treatise on the Breeding and Management of Live Stock*, 2 vols., 1810, and descriptions of the agriculture of the counties of Huntingdon and Rutland.

Before settling near Baltimore, Parkinson examined many places offered in Maryland, and was at Philadelphia and New York. What he wanted was highly improved land near a good market town. He found market prices higher at Baltimore than at Philadelphia or New York. He says, "I was very much attached to Baltimore; finding that New-York and Philadelphia were much cheaper supplied with the land's produce than that city: they having great plenty of hay, more clover than could be sold, excellent beef, good veal (the mutton but middling), pork very fine, turkeys very fine, and all sorts of poultry; vegetables in very great plenty * *

On the first of May, 1799, I entered upon my farm at Orange-Hill, three miles from Baltimore. I will

explain why I gave so great a rent for this, after having had all the offers which I have mentioned.

I thought nothing in the farming-line likely to be profitable, except the selling of milk, and what in that country is called truck,—which is garden produce, fruits, &c.; finding labour so very dear, and scarcely to be had at all, except by the keeping of slaves, which I did not like. The price of milk being six pence to eight pence per quart, seemed to me sure of paying well * * * But I found great trouble in this business.” [Vol. I, pp. 85, 161-162.]



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